

Minutes

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING February 23, 2010

Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman
Peter Viteretto
Rich Whitehead
Christine Names
Dave Tracy

Staff: Hal Alvord, Tree Warden
Paul Sotnik, Deputy Tree Warden
Chris Torre, Deputy Tree Warden
Dilene Byrd, Secretary

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dick Aime (Absent)

Neighborhood Liaisons: Dianne Witkowsky, Spring Hill Association
Gay Mac Leod, West Norwalk Association
Mike Mushak, Golden Hill Association
Jim McLoughlin
Rob Frazier

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2010

**** MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REPORT – INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik stated that there were no new illegal cuttings to report. Mr. Sotnik said that he met with the resident from 30 Oakhill Avenue and she is in the process of putting together a planting plan and submitting it for approval.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

a. East Norwalk- 4 plantings left for Spring 2010

Mr. Sotnik said that the four Sweet Gum trees are to be planted in the two islands on Strawberry Hill Avenue and will be planted in the spring.

b. Wall Street

Mr. Sotnik said that the five trees to be removed have been posted and can be taken down on March 2, 2010, if there are no protests. Mr. Viteretto said that there are two Linden trees at that location and asked why only one is posted for removal. Mr. Sotnik said that the tree was not posted because it was not scheduled to be removed as part of the plan submitted by Mr. Whitehead and it is a healthy tree. Mr. Alvord said that he wanted to have a uniform and consistent line of trees so he asked Mr. Sotnik to post the other Linden tree for removal.

c. Highland Avenue Plan

Mr. Alvord said that he and Mr. Sotnik had met with Rob Frazier and Jack Robinson and had gone through the plan that Mr. Frazier had developed and have agreed that it will be broken into manageable sections. He said that first section that will be done will be at the southern end. He said that Mr. Sotnik has contacted the State DOT because the Bradford Pear trees are in the State right of way and will need their approval to remove them, as well as a tree planting maintenance agreement. Mr. Frazier asked if he should stake the locations. Mr. Alvord said "yes," but suggested not doing that until after the Bradford Pear trees are removed.

d. Main Street

Mr. Alvord said that as part of the project, CL&P was supposed to install several tree planting pits for the City. He said that they had failed to install them as they were doing the new sidewalks. He said that planters will be installed instead, and he has also had discussions with a couple of the property owners about being able to plant on private property on the west side of Main Street. He said that he had met with CL&P last week and they have agreed upon a number, and CL&P agreed to issue a check to the City to purchase the planters. Mr. Alvord stated that the check for the planters had been received from CL&P and the project had been closed out.

e. Look-ahead to CY 2010

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Overall had dropped off a packet this morning for a planting of 11 trees on Gregory Boulevard from the statue heading north on the east side.

5. INFORMATION COPIES

a. Stop Topping Trees

Mr. Alvord distributed.

b. Stop Tree Topping

Mr. Alvord distributed.

- c. 22 Benefits of Urban Street Trees- Dan Burden
Mr. Alvord distributed
- d. Street Tree Planting Text Amendment Approved- New York City Department of Planning
Mr. Alvord distributed
- e. Street Tree Compatibility List- City of New York Parks and Recreation
Mr. Alvord distributed
- f. Avoiding Street Tree Pitfalls- ArborAge
Mr. Alvord distributed
- g. Business Improvement Districts and Urban Entertainment and Cultural Centers- American Planning Association
Mr. Alvord distributed
- h. Downtown Bellingham Partnership
Mr. Alvord distributed
- i. Downtown Albany Business Improvement District
Mr. Alvord distributed
- j. Tree Warden Association Spring Workshop
Mr. Alvord Distributed
- k. DBH To Age Chart
Mr. Alvord distributed

6. UPDATE – TREE FESTIVAL 2010

Mr. Alvord said that letters and telephone calls have gone out to the potential donors and that the planning schedule has been done. He said that a Parking Committee has also been formed and that Mr. Sotnik has volunteered to be on that Committee.

7. UPDATE - KEEP NORWALK BEAUTIFUL

Mr. Nelson said that the organization has been broken up into Committees and each of the Committees are taking on specific activities. Mr. Alvord said that the Board meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Community room at the Police Department at 7:00PM and it is an open meeting. He said that the group is in the process of becoming certified as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Mr. Viteretto said in addition to having Board members there are sub-committees that are looking mostly at the tree scapes from Wall Street to South Washington Street. Mr. Alvord suggested that effort and Keep Norwalk Beautiful get together and share notes.

8. DISCUSSION - NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Ms. Witkowsky said that at the last CNNA meeting that Jim Delgreco gave an update on Keep Norwalk Beautiful. She said there was a vote on the Zoning initiative for advanced notification via signage and the internet when a developer plans to develop an area and that every neighborhood agreed. Mr. Nelson asked how many neighborhoods attended the meeting. Ms. Witkowsky said ten. She said that a few of the Board members will be meeting with the Housing Authority tomorrow to discuss Washington Village.

9. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Tracy said that he has received the material to repair the signs at the Rosa Parks Arboretum and that he will need some expert advice on the signs to be placed on the trees that do not already have a sign. Mr. Whitehead said that Mr. Tracy can contact him.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Alvord said that he and Mr. Sotnik had met with CL&P and have issued their annual trimming permit.
- b. Mr. Tracy said that he had received a call from the Arbor Day Foundation asking if Norwalk was interested in having a corporate sponsored tree planting activity during Earth Week. Mr. Alvord said he would like to come up with a project concept to present to the Arbor Day Foundation. Mr. Mushak distributed a map of Martin Luther King Drive and said that he has flagged 30 locations where he thought trees can be planted. Mr. Alvord distributed an aerial photo of Martin Luther King Drive and said that it is barren of trees. After further discussion the Committee selected in the order of priority, to do the planting at Martin Luther King Drive, Fox Run School, or the Ward Street Cemetery. It was decided that Mr. Tracy would get back to the Arbor Day Foundation with the concepts that the Committee had come up with. Mr. Alvord said that if Mr. Tracy needs additional information to contact him.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7: 15 P.M.